



International Day of Peace

What does peace mean?

Peace is a word that holds many different meanings. It is a word that can be used in a lot of different ways. One definition of peace is: freedom from disturbance; a time of tranquillity when you are not disturbed by anyone or anything. Peace can also be defined as a state or period in which there is no war, or a war has ended.



The United Nations

In 1945, representatives from 51 countries around the world met in San Francisco in the United States of America (USA). After the Second World War had ended, the world was left in a mess. There was no longer trust between neighbouring countries and there was no longer any peace. The representatives from each of the 51 countries decided that they must do something to re-establish peace and so a very important document was signed. The document was made up of four very important agreements. The agreements were:

- To maintain international peace and security
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for equal rights.
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems.
- To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these goals.



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The International Day of Peace was agreed upon in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly with the first official International Day of Peace happening on the 21st of September 1982. The purpose of the International Day of Peace is to:

'provide a globally-shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace.'



How will you help to celebrate International Day of Peace?

Celebrating peace can be as simple as giving a compliment to brighten someone's day or inviting someone to play that you wouldn't normally play with. Spreading peace is like spreading kindness and the more kindness that there is in the world the better the world will become.

What are some ways that you could spread peace in your community or in your school?

Our Responsibility

Promoting peace in our communities is one of the ways that we can help to spread peace around the world. Promoting peace may look different to some and can be shown in many different ways. Some of these are.

- Be kind.
- Find common areas of interest with those who are different to us.
- Learn to agree to disagree, there isn't always a right answer but working together for the common good helps to spread kindness and peace.



Questions

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1. What is one of the definitions of the word peace?

2. In which year did representatives of 51 different countries meet to sign an important peace document?

- 1956
- 1934
- 1954
- 1945

3. Why was it considered important for these countries to agree to sign a peace deal?

4. Can you tick the agreement below which is not one of those signed by the 51 countries in the peace agreement?

- To maintain international peace and security
- To help each other with making laws.
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems.
- To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these goals.

5. When was the first International Day of Peace held?

- September 12th 1981.
- September 21st 1981.
- September 12th 1982.
- September 21st 1982.

6. What is the purpose of the International Day of Peace?

7. What are some ways can you help to promote and spread peace in your school community?
